

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The title was amended so as to read:

An Act making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I think that finalizes the bill, the Military Construction appropriations bill and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill for 2007. I thank all of my colleagues for their cooperation and patience, especially my colleague, Senator FEINSTEIN, my ranking member who has been such a great colleague to work with on this bill. Her staff and my staff have done an incredible job. I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to going to conference and having our military personnel be housed and have the equipment that is in the Military Construction bill which they so readily deserve.

Especially, I have to say that funding the veterans and their needs is a special privilege for all of us because we have young men and women coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan as we speak with injuries that we want to assure are cared for and healed, and where necessary that we have the rehabilitation which they so richly deserve.

I think we have done a good job of covering these needs. I am very pleased that we have taken one more step to finalize this bill.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, if I might, I thank the chairman, my friend, the Senator from Texas. We usually have a very easy time with this bill. There are usually not many amendments to this bill. But perhaps because this is the first vehicle to move a number of items, they seemed to come up this afternoon. I think the chairman has shown great leadership and flexibility. Sometimes they go together and sometimes they do not, but she has possessed both today.

I am very grateful, and the Democratic side is very grateful for it as well. This is a good bill. It is a bipartisan bill. It takes good care of veterans. It eliminates the problem of financing that we had last year. Overall, it is an excellent bill. I am very proud to have worked with the chairman. I thank her.

I thank the majority staff. And, of course, I thank my staff, of which Christina Evans is sitting on my left, and B.G. Wright and Chad Schulken back in the box.

It has been a good day. At least we have accomplished a substantial bill.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT KAMPHA B. SOURIVONG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I ask that the Senate join me in paying tribute to SGT Kampha Sourivong, who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting freedom. Sergeant Sourivong, of Iowa City, IA, was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, Army National Guard, based out of Iowa Falls, IA. He was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom with the unit in September 2005 and arrived in Iraq in early May 2006. He died at the age of 20, on September 30, 2006, in Al Asad, Iraq, when his military vehicle encountered small arms fire.

Sergeant Sourivong will be posthumously awarded the following awards and decorations for his heroic service: the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization device, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

My thoughts and prayers have been with Sergeant Sourivong's parents, Patty and Maliphone Sourivong, his brother and sister, and all those other family and friends who are grieving the loss of this young man. The Sourivong family described Kampha as "a very caring person" who "had a lot of friends, loved his family, loved his brother and loved his sister" and someone who "would give the shirt off his back to someone in need."

I am grateful for the sacrifice that both Sergeant Sourivong and his family have made. Our Nation will forever be in their debt. While the tragic loss of this young American is deeply sad, he will be remembered proudly as the hero that he was.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSWOMAN HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in recent weeks, many of our thoughts have been turned to Helen Chenoweth-Hage, her memory, and her family.

As you know, Helen was laid to rest in October after a tragic automobile accident took her life. We honor and remember this remarkable woman, and I feel privileged to share with you some of my memories and thoughts about her and the time that we served together in the U.S. House of Representatives.

There will never be another public servant in Idaho like Helen. I served

alongside her in the House of Representatives and worked on many issues with her, from fighting Federal mandates in north Idaho to fighting for our military at Mountain Home Air Force Base and Gowen Field in Boise. She stood firm in her convictions and beliefs, honoring the promises she made to those who put her in office. Helen knew, without a doubt, what she believed in, and she lived those beliefs in word and deed unwaveringly.

She worked very hard to make sure she had an understanding of what was at stake. When she started her congressional career in 1995, she read every piece of legislation that was coming up for a vote on the House floor. She felt she owed it to those who sent her to Congress. She surprised more than a few committee chairmen by showing up at hearings being held by committees she didn't serve on, simply because of her desire to know more and understand an issue.

One of her most-oft repeated matras was "Love many, trust few, and paddle your own canoe." And that is exactly what she did—she was not someone who would check the wind before deciding what to do. She listened, asked questions, read documents, studied the issues, and talked with experts and plain folks. She took all that information she gathered and then made her decision. At her center was a very principled, gracious woman—one who was strong in her beliefs and kind to all those around her, regardless of theirs. In many ways, she mirrored the principled center many of us admire about President Ronald Reagan.

Idahoans have lost a true champion for smaller government and personal freedoms. Helen brought Idaho into the national spotlight. She stood tough on the issues and spoke out often, even after she left the House of Representatives in 2001. She could always be counted on to call out hypocrisy in government and placed her reputation on the line many times to hold to her beliefs on what was best for Idahoans.

Perhaps the best way to remember Helen is to quote her own words in an interview done with Reason Magazine in October 2000. When the reporter asked how she would like to be remembered, this is what she said:

That I have been true to real Republican principles. It's been people like Tom Coburn, Mark Sanford, and myself who have constantly said, 'Let's not forget who we are and why we are here.' And that is to protect individual rights, American sovereignty, and private property. If there is not a force of law and justice to protect private property, then we have lost the basis of our freedoms.

She said something else in that interview that strikes a resonant chord with me, in particular. When asked what the greatest threat to American Liberty was, she said:

Too much federal and state government. The lack of respect of people working in government for individuals. An idea that certain people who occupy powerful positions in the administration can make better decisions about an individual and their life choices than can that individual.

Helen will always be remembered as a champion of the individual—the rugged, self-reliant American that is in all of us—and I thank her for that.

BOB DOLE ON GEORGE MCGOVERN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, civility is alive and well in the great State of South Dakota.

During the recess, there was an extraordinary, bipartisan celebration honoring our former colleague, Senator George McGovern. The occasion was the dedication of the George and Eleanor McGovern Library at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD.

The dedication brought together former President Bill Clinton, former majority leader Bob Dole, former majority leader Tom Daschle, Senator JOHN THUNE, Representative STEPHANIE HERSETH, Governor Mike Rounds, and 5,000 of Senator McGovern's closest friends and admirers.

Governor Rounds noted that Senator McGovern was a "patriot" and that "all of us gathered here today have a whole lot more in common than what divides us as Americans." Senator THUNE noted that his father always voted for George McGovern, even as the children urged him to vote Republican, because George was a decorated WWII fighter pilot. Perhaps it was Senator Dole, with his characteristic humor, who best captured the significance of Senator McGovern's inspiring career.

I ask unanimous consent that the remarks of Senator Dole be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Thank you very much for that generous introduction, and for the honor of receiving the first McGovern Prize for Leadership and Public Service. It is something that I will cherish, not least of all because of its namesakes who have set the standard—in friendship as well as in leadership. This week's events remind us once again that George McGovern is a uniter and not a divider. Who else could bring together Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, Al Neuharth, Tom Daschle, John Thune, and Peter, Paul and Mary?

As you know, at times George and I have had our political differences. Though not the differences you might think. For example, here at Wesleyan he was twice elected president of his class. I have yet to be elected president of anything—though I'm thinking of running against Bill Clinton for president of the Senate spouses.

For me tonight is both an opportunity to salute an old friend, and to repay an old debt. You see, three years ago George came to the dedication of the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. What he said about me then more than made up for what he said about me when I ran for President in 1980, 1988 and 1996. So I figured the least I could do was to return the favor, and make up for what I said about him, when he ran for President in 1968—and 1972—and 1984.

I've long since accommodated myself to a career pitching Pepsi and other stimulants. And George has happily resigned himself to the fact that the only presidents in South Dakota are on Mount Rushmore. At our

stage of life we both adhere to the wisdom of W.C. Fields, who expressed his philosophy as follows: If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again. Then give up. No use being a damn fool about it.

Of course, in all that truly matters, George has never given up. Neither has his beloved Eleanor. Sixty-six years after they enrolled as undergraduates on this campus, sixty-three years after they declared their marriage vows, the McGoverns of Mitchell are still making a difference, still living every day in the spirit of this school's motto: sacrifice or service.

Having been both a candidate and a candidate's spouse, I speak from experience when I say that for spouses it isn't sacrifice or service, it's sacrifice and service. But then Eleanor McGovern has always been a leader and humanitarian in her own right. What ever else you can say about us, it's pretty clear that both George and I married above ourselves.

That's not all we have in common. "There is a wholeness about life in a rural state. . . life tends to be more authentic and less artificial." The words are George's but the sentiment applies as much to Russell, Kansas as to Mitchell, South Dakota. We both can attest to the fact that small towns nurture large dreams, and a generosity unbounded as the Great Plains. Generosity is what this evening's all about—the generosity of donors, and of those who seek their donations. I want to congratulate Ambassador Kimmelman and President Duffett as well as the trustees and the campaign committee and every single individual whose generosity has helped to realize a dream called the McGovern Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service.

Since we're all being so generous, maybe George would let me borrow his fundraising team. We could use your help at KU. I can't imagine a more appropriate tribute to the McGoverns than a library, and not just because George taught here at Wesleyan before he put classroom theory to the test in a public career that spans half a century. In fact, he and Eleanor are both educators at heart. They understand, for they personify, the essential truth of education—that so long as books are kept open, then minds can never be closed. In years to come, this place will be an incubator of informed Citizenship. What more could any teacher ask for?

Generosity takes many forms. In the case of the McGoverns, it means a lifetime of principled service, and a personal decency that transcends any party label. I'm tempted to say it transcends generations as well. It has been said by this state's second most famous son, Tom Brokaw, that George and I belong to the greatest generation. Actually, we were fairly average Americans, who suddenly found ourselves caught up in the historical whirlwind—a tornado as random and devastating as any that slashed across the prairies of my youth.

If we were prepared for the curve balls that came our way, it was only because of the values passed on to us by pioneers and parents who had confronted more than their share of challenges. When hard times engulfed the American farmer like a Kansas dust storm, we clung all the tighter to our neighbors. I don't know about George, but my own commitment to feeding the hungry is rooted in those distant days when millions of Americans struggled to put food on the table. Hunger is bipartisan. So is compassion.

It wasn't only economic democracy that was called into question during those bleak years. Also on the line was the idea—enshrined in places like Mitchell and Russell—that every life is precious because every human is created with a plan and a purpose. The great test of our time was moral as well

as military. It was met by 16 million citizen soldiers, backed by millions more on the home front. All of them heroes in the age old struggle for popular government.

The word hero gets thrown around a lot. It's a lot easier to be a hero if someone is shooting at you, as happened to me on an Italian hillside—or attempting to shoot down your plane, as George will recall from 35 missions with his fellow B-24 bomber pilots. Nor was it any accident that he named his plane the Dakota Queen—for the young bride to whom he would return after the war, with a Distinguished Flying Cross pinned to his uniform. When in another context George said, "Come home, America," I think it was that America to which he referred—a country that in every generation has produced heroes, and is, in turn, a land fit for heroes to come home to.

In this America we fight as one, though we vote and pray and speak as many. One of the unfortunate aspects of modern politics is our tendency to label, dehumanize and even demonize opponents who are, after all, opponents—not enemies. George McGovern is a leader, not a label. The man we honor this evening is a proud liberal who nevertheless found much to admire in such common sense conservatives as Bob Taft and Barry Goldwater. A Methodist preacher's son, raised in a republican household, he cast his first vote for Henry Wallace. As a young activist he was spellbound by the eloquence of Adlai Stevenson. But in later years he would praise my hero, Dwight Eisenhower, for his statesmanship and restraint while in the White House.

George got to Congress ahead of me. By the time we served in the Senate, it's a safe bet that our votes usually cancelled each other out. As fate would have it, I was Republican national chairman in 1972, the year George ran against President Nixon. In politics, as earlier, I tried to be a good soldier, but there are times when party loyalty asks too much. More than once I returned speech drafts objecting to the official line against the Democratic nominee for President. By election day, I think I had upset more people around the White House than George did. enough, anyway, so that I became expendable once the votes were counted.

Come to think of it, George, there's another thing we have in common. We were both left unemployed by the Nixon White House.

If ever a candidate was entitled to nurse a grudge, it was George McGovern. Except no man I know is less inclined to waste time or energy in holding grudges. His generosity of spirit extended to the man who defeated him in 1972. I will never forget a day in June, 1993, when we buried Pat Nixon in the rose gardens at the Nixon Library and birthplace. After the formal service concluded, we were invited inside—away from the prying eye of television—so that President Nixon could deliver a tribute of his own to his wife of fifty-three years. Among other things, he spoke of the joys of grandparenting, describing what happened when their youngest granddaughter, Jennie, asked Mrs. Nixon how she wished to be addressed.

After rejecting "grandmother" as too formal, and "grandma" as a bit too elderly for her liking, Pat suggested to the little girl that she call her "Ma." Jennie then put the same question to her famous grandfather. To which he replied, "Oh, you can call me anything, Jennie, because I've been called everything." At that moment I wasn't the only person in the room who was struggling to control his emotions. Not twenty feet from Nixon stood George, dabbing at his eyes with a handkerchief.

Later that day, a reporter approached him, curious to know why he was there. George